Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Work Group Co-Chairs:

Ken De, Environment Canada

Tony Martig, U.S. EPA

PCB Challenges

Canada

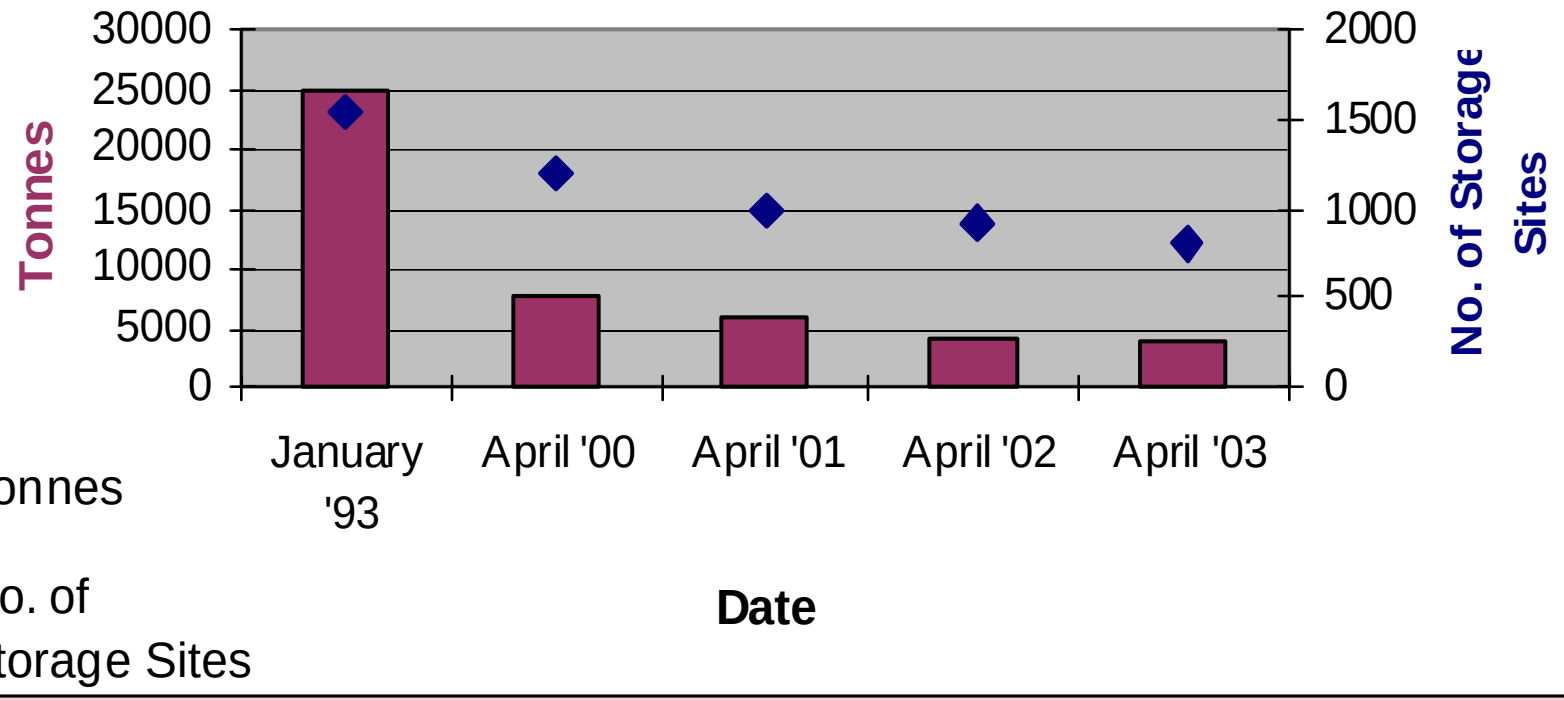
"Seek by 2000, a 90% reduction of high-level PCBs (>1% PCB) that were once, or are currently, in service and accelerate destruction of stored high-level PCB wastes which have the potential to enter the Great Lakes Basin, consistent with the 1994 COA."

United States

"Seek by 2006, a 90% reduction nationally of high-level PCBs (>500 ppm) used in electrical equipment. Ensure that all PCBs retired from use are properly managed and disposed of to prevent releases within or to the Great Lakes Basin."

Canadian Accomplishments

High-Level PCBs Waste and No. of Storage Sites in Ontario, Canada



Progress on the Canadian PCB Challenge (1994-2002)

- As of March, 2003, 86% of high-level PCB (Askarel > 1%, 10,000 ppm) in storage had been destroyed in Ontario compared to 1993; approximately 3854 tonnes of high-level PCBs are still in storage and 3596 tonnes in service in Ontario

- Recent years (2001 - 2002) shows slower rate of destruction. Over the last year (April, 2002-April, 2003) approx. 290 tonnes of waste have been destroyed; 160 tonnes High level PCB decommissioned and about 150 storage sites eliminated.

PCB Storage Sites Remaining in Ontario

	December 1994	April 2003
Federal Sites	109	25
Non-federal Sites	1429	530
Total Sites Remaining	1538	555

U.S. Progress Toward Challenge Goals

- Currently waiting for 2001 disposal data
- Approximately 36% (71,000) PCB transformers and 10% (141,000) PCB capacitors disposed of between 1994 and the end of 2000
- Amount of PCB equipment disposed since 1994 is likely high since reports do not account for all disposed

U.S. Accomplishment Highlights

- PCB outreach/phase-out efforts (National/Federal/Regional efforts)
- MPCA Small Quantity MPCA PCB Owner Disposal Cooperative
- U.S. PBT Initiative Projects

Accomplishments on the Canadian PCB Challenge (2003)

- Follow-up calls continued to mailed out requests for voluntary commitment letters by Industry sectors e.g. sensitive areas, schools/educational institutes, food processing,hospitals and care facilities, Automotive, Steel, Utility, Pulp and Paper. Metals and Mining.
- Developed strategy, selection criteria and implementation plan for " Recognition and Award" Program
- For Recognition program, 18 companies were contacted, 8 interested and 4 qualified and submitted their case studies as 1st batch.
- Will continue to identify additional companies from other sectors

Recognition and Award for PCB Success Stories

Utility Sector

- Festival Hydro, Hydro Hawkesbury,Enersource Mississauga Hydro, Hydro Ottawa and Hydro One are a few utilities that have eliminated all of their high-level PCBs that were in service, Hydro One and Enersource are first two interested to receive the Plaque

Steel Sector:

- Slater Steel (Bar Division) in Hamilton (100% PCB Free in 1998)
- Stelco (Steel Pipe Division) in Welland (100% high level PCB destroyed by 2000)

Amendments to Canadian Federal PCB Regulations

- 3 PCB Regulations are targeted for Canada Gazette Publications in 2003
- Another Public consultation meeting held in Jan,03
- Compliance Promotion and Workshops strategies are being developed

- Web-site: *http://www.ec.gc.ca/PCB/*

Barriers/Challenges

- Lack of regulations requiring PCB reductions
- Need to implement incentives to achieve voluntary reductions
- Need improved communication with and involvement of stakeholders

Upcoming Actions

- Continue with “Recognition & Award” program
- Continue seeking PCB reduction commitments
- Continue outreach efforts
- Continue PCB source emission studies
- Pursue New Initiatives (e.g. SME PCB Audit, Financial Incentives, ISO 14000)
- Develop National Compliance Promotion/Workshop Strategy and use it for Canada’s New PCB Regulations